Edmonton Area Series Report No. 29

1983 EDMONTON AREA STUDY
SAMPLING REPORT

By

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The 1983 Edmonton Area Study (EAS) was administered and supported by the Population Research Laboratory and the Department of Sociology at The University of Alberta. Dr. L.W. Kennedy was the study director and principal investigator.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Population Research Laboratory and the Department of Sociology at the University of Alberta are very much indebted to the dedicated group of professional interviewers and coders who took part in the study. Their continued support is an integral part of the success of the Edmonton Area Studies.

INTRODUCTION

This paper describes the sampling design and data collection method of the 1983 Edmonton Area Study. A brief demographic profile of the sample is also presented.

This is the first Edmonton Area Series report on the 1983 project. Subsequent papers on findings will be announced in the Population Research Laboratory's "In Summary" newsletter.

The Department of Sociology, University of Alberta, conducted the 1983 study through its research facility, the Population Research Laboratory (PRL).

THE TOPIC

For the seventh annual Edmonton Area Study "The Quality of Working Life in Edmonton" was chosen as the special topic. Questions under this topic related to the respondent's job history, work characteristics, workplace and work safety.

As in the past, faculty members and outside agencies submitted a variety of questions which may or may not have been related to the special topic. In addition, the questionnaire contained a number of replicated questions from previous EAS studies.

SAMPLING DESIGN

Population

The 1983 Edmonton Area Study population universe was designated as all persons 18 years of age and older who at the time of the survey were in a dwelling unit that was enumerated during The City of Edmonton Civic Census in the spring of 1982.

Sampling

As in the previous four studies the 1983 Edmonton Area Study used as its sampling frame a computerized list of addresses compiled by the City of Edmonton from their most recent enumeration (1982). From the computer tape a simple random sample of 547 addresses for personal interviewing was selected. Nursing homes and temporary residences were deleted from the sample. Within the household one eligible person was selected as the respondent for the one hour interview.

Interviewers were instructed to obtain an equal number of male and female respondents within their allotment of interviews. As adult males are generally more difficult to contact, selection procedure guidelines were set for the interviewers to assist them in obtaining their quotas. The sex breakdown of the sample was 54% male and 46% female.

DATA COLLECTION

A total of 33 interviewers were hired from the PRL interviewing pool and trained to conduct the interviewing which began in the third week of February (1983). In the week prior to interviewing an introductory letter was sent to each selected address. It briefly described the nature of the study and advised the householder of his selection indicating that he should expect a visit from an interviewer in the near future.

All interviewing was face to face. Thirty-three percent of the interviews were conducted on the first visit. If unsuccessful in establishing contact, interviewers were to make four call back attempts. Four percent of the completed interviews required more than four call backs.

Data collection took six weeks with 58% of the interviewing being completed during the first two weeks. Thirty-seven addresses were found to be ineligible, vacant or demolished buildings. Only these addresses were replaced by another random selection. They were defects in the sampling frame rather than non-response addresses. No other replacements were made.

The final status breakdown of questionnaires was as follows:

Refused	17.7%
No contact	4.6
Language problem	0.9
Total non-response	23.2%
Completed interviews	76.8
	100.0%

The majority of the interviewing was completed during weekdays (Monday to Friday, 72.7%). Of the interviewing completed during weekdays approximately one-third was done before six o'clock in the evening. Monday had the highest number of completions with gradual tapering off during the week until Saturday when the number of interviews completed rose again. Median interviewing time was 65 minutes.

The completed interviews were selectively and randomly verified through a series of checks which included re-contacting respondents by telephone and home visits. No significant discrepancies or irregularities were found in the interviewing.

The final sample size was 420 giving a 76.8% response rate.

THE DATA

The raw data file exists in card image format and is stored on magnetic tape. The data were tabulated and cleaned in accordance with generally accepted survey research practices using programs developed by the PRL.

The rectangular data set contains 373 variables for each case. There are a total of 420 cases with 8 decks (cards) per case. A SPSS (Statistical Package For The Social Sciences) systems file with labels has been created to analyze the data.

The data became available for analysis 30th June, 1983, but access has been restricted for six months to agencies and persons involved in the planning, questionnaire design and execution of the survey. After December 31st, interested persons should contact the PRL for access instructions. The questionnaire and codebook documentation will also be available in machine readable form.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The median age of the respondents was 33 years. Twenty-six percent of the respondents were single while 56% were married or living in a common-law relationship. Eighteen percent were either divorced, separated or widowed.

With respect to religious preference, 47% were Protestant; 29% were Roman Catholic, Ukrainian Catholic, or Greek Orthodox; 4% were Other while 20% claimed no religious preference.

Ninety-two percent of the respondents were able and willing to provide their gross household income. The median 1982 household income was in the $30,000-31,999 range.

Fifty-one percent of the sample lived in a single detached family home, 24% in multiple family walk up, 7% in a multiple family hi-rise apartment, 11% in row housing, 5% in semi-detached and duplex housing, and 2% in Other types. Mobility appears consistent with previous years' with 24% living in their current residence less than one year and 38% less than 2 years. Thirty-four percent had resided in their present residence for 5 or more years.

The sample and census distribution for size of household and age of respondents are shown in Tables 1 and 2. The congruence between the sample and census distributions indicates that the sample adequately represents the Edmonton population.

TABLE 1

Household Size Distributions for the 1983 EAS Sample and for the 1981 Census of Canada for Edmonton.

Household Size	1981 Census of Canada for Edmonton*	Edmonton Area Study
	%	%
1	24.0	19.8
2	31.2	32.6
3	17.5	16.4
4-5	23.2	27.7
6-9	3.9	3.4
10+	0.1	0.2
Total	99.8	100.1

**Index of Dissimilarity 5.9

*Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census of Canada, (E-567): 1-81, 1-82.

**Source: O. Dudley Duncan and Beverly Duncan, "Residential Distribution and Occupational Stratification," American Journal of Sociology, 60(5):494, March 1955. The index represents the proportion of households that would have to move to a different category to make the distributions identical.

TABLE 2

Edmonton Age Distributions from the 1981 Census of Canada, 1982 City of Edmonton Census and 1983 EAS Sample

Age Group	1981 Census of Canada* %	1982 Civic Census** %	Edmonton Area Study %
20-24	20.6	19.5	16.0
25-34	29.1	30.7	36.2
35-44	15.7	16.4	17.5
45-54	13.7	13.2	14.0
55-64	10.5	10.2	7.6
65+	10.4	9.9	8.6
TOTAL	100.0	99.9	99.9

Index of Dissimilarity: EAS with 1981 Census of Canada 9.3
Index of Dissimilarity: EAS with 1982 Civic Census 7.4

*Source: Statistics Canada, 1981 Census of Canada, 93-921 (Volume 2): 2-9, 2-10.

**Source: City of Edmonton, 1982 Civic Census Printout.

Because of the many replicated questions on EAS over the years, it is possible for interested researchers to do cross-study analysis. The PRL has available a program which will retrieve any variable from a particular year and organize a raw data set to suit the needs of the user.[1]

Those persons and organizations outside the Department of Sociology who are interested in submitting questions for the 1983 project on a time-sharing basis should contact the Director of the PRL before the end of October (1983).

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[1]Contact Dr. N. Lalu, of the PRL, for further details.

APPENDIX

1983 EAS TOPICS

1. Demographic Characteristics of Population

2. Quality of Working Life

    a. employment status
    b. respondent's occupation
    c. industry of work
    d. spouse's occupation
    e. characteristics of job
    f. work background
    g. job security
    h. workplace
    i. satisfaction
    j. job safety and health
    k. attitudes to work

3. Social Behaviour

    a. social contacts
    b. group membership

4. Urban Residential Mobility

5. Quality of Life Measures

6. High School Assessment and Attitudes

7. Crime

    a. victimization
    b. neighbourhood information
    c. attitudes and behaviour to crime
    d. safety

8. Attitudes To Ethnic Groups

9. Personal Health and Assessment

10. Environmental Issues

11. Museum Visits

12. Current Issues

    a. suicide
    b. nuclear emergencies
    c. voting preference

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* Out of Print